

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 2 and 3. These sheets, which include Figs. 2 and 3 replace the original sheets including Figs. 2 and 3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 18-24 are currently under consideration in the application. Claims 1-17 have been cancelled. Independent claims 18 and 22 have been amended to further distinguish over the prior art. Specifically, in the claimed method of supplying individual quantities of flat part products, the products supplied are of different types comprising at least partly different rectangular formats. Also, in the claimed installation for the serial supply of individual quantities of flat part products, the products supplied are of different types comprising at least partly different rectangular formats. This amendment is supported by the specification and Figs. 1-3.

Further in amended claim 18, when a restored row of part product groups is separated into individual part product groups, the group is removed from the head end of the row in a direction F that is substantially perpendicular to a second direction E which is opposite to a first direction D, wherein D is the direction in which the row of part products was first wound on to the roll. This is supported by the specification and Figs. 2 and 3.

And further, in amended claim 22, each part product group is removed from the head end of a restored row in a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of the restored row. This is supported by the specification and Figs. 2 and 3.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for failing to illustrate a "plurality of grippers" as recited in claim 22. Figures 2 and 3 have been amended to show, schematically, grippers (11) as claimed in claim 22. Consideration of the amended drawings is respectfully requested, as well as removal of the objection to the drawings.

Claim rejections – Section 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. For the following reasons, the Examiner's rejection is traversed.

Regarding claim 22, the Examiner states that claim 22 specifically recites separate winding and unwinding stations. However, the Examiner states that in the specification and drawings the stations described and shown are only dual purpose stations that wind and unwind from the same station. Applicant disagrees.

When a winding station is used as a buffer device (intermediate storage), the winding station acts as both a winding station and an unwinding station. An example of this is shown in U.S. 4,684,118 to Boss (hereinafter Boss). These dual purpose stations and how they operate are well known in the art.

However, a winding station may also be solely dedicated to winding (where the finished roll is taken away in a full roll form) or solely dedicated to unwinding (full rolls are loaded onto the station and then unrolled). This is also well known in the art. Fig. 1 of the present application shows two winding stations, one located above

the other where material is wound on the first station and unwound from the second station. The specification describes both a winding and unwinding function.

However, the specification does not limit the stations described to solely dedicated winding or unwinding stations. In claim 22, a station for winding and a station for unwinding are claimed separately, which is fully consistent with what is described in the specification and what is known in the state of the art.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph for failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Specifically, the Examiner questions the Figures of the Specification, namely Fig. 1, and how materials are loaded on and off the winding station.

Applicant refers the Examiner to Boss, for the general teaching of how one station can function as both a winding station and an unwinding station, a function that is well known in the art. As previously stated, the specification does not state that any station in particular is a dedicated winding station, dedicated unwinding station or only a dual function station. Referring to Fig. 1, two separate stations are shown with winding occurring at a first station (upper) than the roll being moved to a second station (lower) where the materials are unwound.

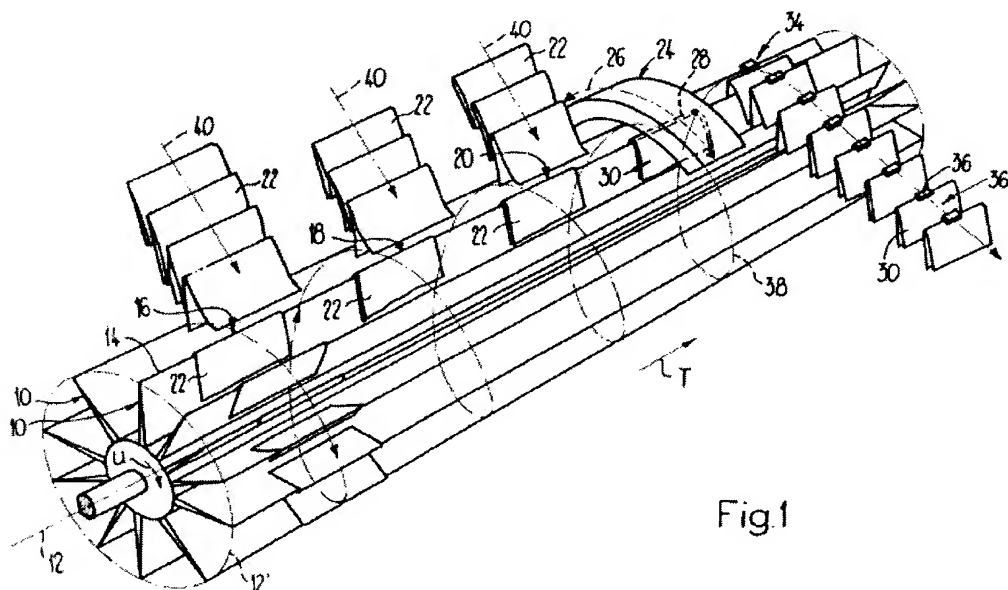
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 18-21 under section 112, first paragraph is respectfully requested.

Claim rejections – Section 102

Claims 18-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102, as being anticipated by

U.S. 5,564,685 to Reist (hereinafter Reist). For the following reasons, the Examiner's rejection is traversed.

Reist is directed to a device for the adhesive stitching of printed products. The device includes a plurality of saddle shaped supports on which the printed products circulate along a closed circulation path. The printed products are fed to the drum in successive axial positions by superimposing them on saddle shaped supports on which the groups in procession of products are displaced in an axial direction. The circulating path then runs through a stitching region.



Regarding claim 18, Reist does not disclose a method step of *superimposing a plurality of streams* of imbricated products, as required. Rather, printed sheets 22 are fed to the feed locations 16, 18, 20 by gripper conveyors of the type generally known in the art without the streams first being superimposed.

Additionally, Reist does not disclose a method step of winding a plurality of superimposed imbricated product stream onto a roll core to form a roll and to unwind the superimposed product streams from the roll in an opposite direction, as required.

The claimed winding and unwinding steps define a first in, last out process. Reist alternatively, discloses a drum like device onto which a plurality of streams are fed and on the drum, the pages of each stream are united and released from the drum in a first in, first out manner.

Additionally, Reist does not disclose a method step of removing a group of part products from the head end of a row of an unwound stream in a third direction (F) which is substantially perpendicular to a second direction (E), wherein the second direction E is opposite a first direction (D) in which a row of part product groups (including the group later removed) are wound onto a roll core.

Because at least the above-mentioned claimed method steps are not disclosed by Reist, claim 18 is not anticipated by Reist. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 18 is respectfully requested. Claims 19-21 depend directly from claim 18 and are believed to be allowable at least for the reasons stated above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 19-21 is respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 22, Reist fails to disclose a means for *superimposing a plurality of supply streams* of one type of part products each to form a row of part product groups. Rather, Reist discloses only printed sheets 22 being fed to the feed locations 16, 18, 20 by gripper conveyors of the type generally known in the art.

Additionally, Reist fails to disclose a winding station for winding a row of part product groups onto a roll core to form a roll and a further winding station for restoring the row by unwinding the roll. As previously stated, this represents a first in, last out operation. As previously stated, Reist discloses, instead, a drum-like device onto which a plurality of streams are fed and on the drum, the pages of each

stream are united and released from the drum in a first in, first out manner.

Further Reist does not disclose grippers for removing part product groups from the head end of a row of part product groups in a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of the restored (unwound) row.

For at least the reasons stated above, Reist does not anticipate claim 22. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 22 is respectfully requested. Claims 23 and 24 depend directly from claim 22 and are believed to be allowable at least for the reasons stated above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 23 and 24 is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 4471953 to Reist (hereinafter Reist II) in view of U.S. 4,732,374 to Honegger (hereinafter Honegger). For the following reasons the Examiner's rejection is traversed.

Reist II is directed to a collecting conveyor that runs through a plurality of deposit stations which are disposed one behind the other in the conveying direction of the collection conveyor. Printed products are continuously supplied from a related stack to each deposit station by means of a related conveyor. The collecting conveyor conveys the piles to an insertion section of an insertion drum.

Honegger is directed to an apparatus for collating printed products, including a plurality of collating conveyors, each of the collating conveyors having a direction of conveyance and extending substantially parallel to a common axis of revolution. The collating conveyors are positioned around the axis of revolution and control means are provided for altering the distance or spacing between adjacent collating conveyors during their revolution.

Even if the references were combined in the manner proposed by the Examiner, the claimed invention would not result. Further modification would be required to arrive at the claimed invention. Regarding claim 18, neither reference, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests a method step of winding a row of part product groups onto a roll core to form a roll and then restoring the row by unwinding it from the roll in a second direction opposite to the first direction. Rather, Reist II teaches conveying a pile of printed products to the insertion drum by grippers on the conveyor, but the gripper configuration prevents the formation of a roll. And rather Honegger teaches feeding plurality of sheets, via feeds, directly to individual collating conveyors in a drum-like configuration. As previously stated, feeding sheets to a drum-like apparatus differs significantly from rolling onto a core (and subsequent unrolling) for the fact at least that feeding to a drum is a first in first out process and feeding to a core is a first in last out process.

Further, neither reference teaches or suggests a method step of removing a group of part products from the head end of a row of an unwound stream in a third direction (F) which is substantially perpendicular to a second direction (E), wherein the second direction E is opposite a first direction (D) in which a row of part product groups (including the group later removed) are wound onto a roll core.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 18 over the combination of Reist II and Honegger is respectfully requested. Claims 19-21 depend directly from claim 18 and are believed to be allowable at least for the reasons stated above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 19-21 is respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 22, neither Reist II, nor Honegger, alone or in combination

teach or suggest a winding station for winding the row of part product groups onto a roll core to form a roll and a further winding station for restoring the row by unwinding the roll. As stated above, the references teach only a drum-type receiving device which is significantly different from the claimed winding stations.

Further neither reference teaches or suggests grippers for removing part product groups from the head end of a row of part product groups in a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of the restored (unwound) row.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 22 over Reist II and Honegger is respectfully requested. Claims 23 and 24 depend directly from claim 22 and are believed to be allowable at least for the reasons stated above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 23 and 24 is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 5,727,781 to Muller (hereinafter Muller) in view of Boss and further in view of U.S. 6,270,076 to Reist (hereinafter Reist III). For the following reasons the Examiner's rejection is traversed.

Muller is directed to a process for combining printed products of a plurality of types to form sets having products of each type. The first type of products are arranged in an imbricated formation in which they overlap one another in a first conveying direction and the edges run obliquely with respect to the first conveying direction. Products of another type are then deposited on the first products successively with the same alignment. Subsequent types of products may be similarly assembled to form the set of products. The formed sets having one of each type of products are then separated and conveyed in a further conveying direction

which is angularly displaced from the first conveying direction.

Reist III is directed to a conveying system in which the conveyor has a branching point with a switch. The switch has a pivotable switching member which in one position lies in the conveyor line and in another position connects the first conveyor line with a second conveyor line.

Even if the references were combined in the manner proposed by the Examiner, the claimed invention would not result. Further modification would be required to arrive at the claimed invention. Regarding claim 18, neither reference, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests a method step of removing a group of part products from the head end of a row of an unwound stream in a third direction (F) which is substantially perpendicular to a second direction (E), wherein the second direction E is opposite a first direction D in which a row of part product groups (including the group later removed) are wound onto a roll core. Rather, Muller teaches using grippers to remove groups in a direction perpendicular to gripped edges, which is at an oblique angle to the direction of the stream. Boss has no disclosure of separating groups from the head end of the unwound stream and no disclosure of removing groups in a direction substantially perpendicular to the stream direction. Reist III teaches use of grippers, but not for separating product groups from the head end of a plurality of superimposed product streams in a direction which is substantially perpendicular to the stream direction.

Because not all of the steps of the claimed invention method are taught or suggested by the proposed combination of references, claim 18 should not be considered unpatentable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 18 is respectfully requested. Claims 19-21 depend directly from claim 18 and are

believed to be allowable at least for the reasons stated above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 19-21 is respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 22, even if the references were combined in the manner proposed by the Examiner, the claimed invention would not result. Further modification would be required to arrive at the claimed invention. The cited references, alone or in combination do not teach or suggest grippers for removing part product groups from the head end of a row of part product groups in a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of the restored (unwound) row. As previously stated above, Muller teaches using grippers to remove groups in a direction perpendicular to gripped edges, which is at an oblique angle to the direction of the stream; Boss has no disclosure of separating groups from the head end of the unwound stream and no disclosure of removing groups in a direction substantially perpendicular to the stream direction; and Reist III teaches use of grippers, but not for separating product groups from the head end of a plurality of superimposed product stream in a direction which is substantially perpendicular to the stream direction.

Because not all of the features of the claimed invention are not taught or suggested by the proposed combination of references, claim 22 should not be considered unpatentable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 18 is respectfully requested. Claims 23 and 24 depend directly from claim 22 and are believed to be allowable at least for the reasons stated above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 23 and 24 is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is

determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0160, our Order No. FRR-15710.

Respectfully submitted,

RANKIN, HILL, PORTER & CLARK LLP

By /James A. Balazs/
James A. Balazs, Reg. No. 47401

4080 Erie Street
Willoughby, Ohio 44094-7836
(216) 566-9700